

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. The page of drawing includes Figures 1 and 2 with only Figure 2 being amended.

Figure 2 is amended to remove the cross-hatching and to change reference numeral 8 on the left-hand side to reference numeral 9.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 2. The page of drawing includes Figures 1 and 2 with only Figure 2 being amended. Figure 2 is amended to remove the cross-hatching and to change reference numeral 8 on the left-hand side to reference numeral 9 indicating the posterior half rings consistent with the disclosure on page 4, lines 9-22 of the application as filed. The above changes are the only changes and are believed not to introduce new matter, while addressing the drawing objection noted in the Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein, including adding section headings.

Claims 1-18 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-18 are canceled and replaced with new claims 19-36. The new claims correspond substantially to the original claims.

New independent claim 19 is amended along the lines suggested in the Official Action to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action. Accordingly, new claim 19 is believed to avoid the claim objections noted in the Official Action.

New claims 19-36 address the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejections noted in the Official Action and are

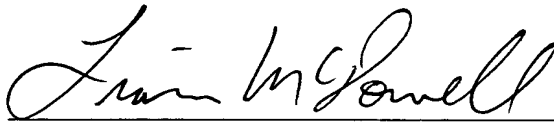
believed to conform to current U.S. practice. Accordingly, the new claims are believed to avoid the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection noted in the Official Action.

New claim 27 is directed to the non-elected species. However, as no art was applied against the claims and as the formal matters noted in the Official Action are believed to be addressed, the application including each of the claims, is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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LM/mjr

**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a Replacement Sheet for Figure 2 of the drawings